

STELLA V. TUCKER

11-4-1877 – 8-21-1915

TREESTUMP HEADSTONE

This unusual headstone fascinated us. It is the only one of its kind in our cemetery.

Our research revealed that it depicted the special interest of Stella and her husband, E. J. Tucker, who were members of the Royal Neighbors of America, and the Modern Woodmen of America. Its colorful history includes the erection of numerous distinctive tombstones depicting tree stumps across the country before 1930. The tombstone program was actually abandoned in 1920 for being too expensive.

The Woodmen of the World, founded in 1890, was a fraternal organization based in downtown Omaha, Nebraska that operated a large privately held insurance company for its members.

Notice how the "family" plot is separated by a concrete curbing, or divider which enclosed the plot. This was done in the early 1900 to give distinction and a feeling of oneness; almost a plot within a plot.

The Funeral record does not reveal much about Stella. She was 37 years, 9 months, and 17 days old when she passed away. Her coffin cost \$50. Her burial robe was \$12. The hearse was \$10.